

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03 DPW-01 AID-10

USIA-04 PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /084 W

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R 161115 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3304

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10830

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP JUNE 16

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG DATED JUNE 16  
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0616

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, JUNE 16

1. SECURITY SITUATION: AS THE CLOCK STRUCK NOON YESTERDAY  
( JUNE 15 ) , AN UNEASY AND INCOMPLETE PEACE SETTLED OVER MOST OF  
MR 2. WHILE EARLY REPORTS INDICATE THAT GVN OFFICIALDOM IS  
VIEWING THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE WITH A MIXTURE OF CONFUSION AND  
CYNICISM, IT NEVERTHELESS APPEARS THAT THE CEASE- FIRE ORDER HAS  
FILTERED DOWN TO LOWER LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES WITH SOME SIGNIFICANT  
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EFFECT. NO ELEVENTH HOUR, TWELFTH HOUR, OR THIRTEENTH HOUR  
LAND- GRAB ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

2. OF THE NINETEEN INCIDENTS RECORDED ACROSS THE REGION ( NOT INCLUDING KONTUM, WHERE GVN REPORTED ELEVEN INCIDENTS, ALL ENEMY- INITIATED) ONLY FIVE OCCURRED AFTER THE NOONTIME EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CEASE- FIRE. NORMALLY TURBULENT BINH DINH REGISTERED ONLY ONE AFTERNOON VIOLATION -- A VC ATTACK ON AN RF POSITION 7 KM NORTH OF AN NHON ( ONE RF WIA). PHU YEN, FOLLOWING FOUR MINOR MORNING INCIDENTS, REPORTED NO AFTERNOON MILITARY ACTIVITY. PLEIKU ALSO REPORTED AN INCIDENT- FREE AFTERNOON. THE TWO MOST NOTEWORTHY POST- CEASEFIRE INCIDENTS, OUTSIDE OF KONTUM, OCCURRED IN THE TRADITIONALLY PLACID PROVINCES OF NINH THUAN AND TUYEN DUC. THE VC TOOK TWO KIA IN AN ATTACK ON AN RF POSITION IN NINH THUAN, AND WOUNDED TWO PF IN AN ATTACK 7 KM SOUTHEAST OF DALAT. TWO OTHER MINOR SKIRMISHES WERE RECORDED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN BINH THUAN.

3. THE ONE GLARING EXCEPTION TO THE RELATIVE QUIET PREVAILING IN THE REGION IS, OF COURSE, KONTUM. MR 2 BRIEFERS AT REGIONAL HQS IN NHA TRANG THIS MORNING REPORTED A TOTAL OF 11 INCIDENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD IN KONTUM ALONE. KONTUM POLOFF ALSO REPORTS WAR AS USUAL AND DETECTS NO INCLINATION ON THE PART OF ADVANCING RVNAF FORCES TO HALT AT PRESENTLY- HELD POSITIONS. THEIR APPARENT INTENTION IS TO PUSH FORWARD AND RETJUE THE AREA AROUND TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE, DESPITE THE NEWLY- ANNOUNCED CEASE- FIRE, THEREBY RESTORING THE STATUS QUO ANTE.

4. IN THIS DETERMINED EFFORT TO RETAKE THE AREA LOST LAST WEEK WEST OF KONTUM CITY, RVNAF UNITS ARE PRESSING AGAINST THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF TRUNG NGHIA, BUT ARE ENCOUNTERING HEAVY RESISTANCE. ON THE SOUTHERN FRINGERS OF TRUNG NGHIA, RF UNITS WERE PUSHED BACK FROM POSITIONS ALONG THE DAK BLA RIVER AND HAVE REGROUPED 1-2 KM TO THE SOUTHWEST.

5. REACTION TO PARIS COMMUNIQUE: NEEDLESS TO SAY, KONTUM RESIDENTS ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR PEACE UNDER THE NEW UMBRELLA OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDING TO POLOFF KONTUM, THEY VIEW COMMUNIQUE LARGELY AS A REITERA-  
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TION OF THE JANUARY AGREEMENT WHICH HAS HAD LESS THAN AN  
OVERWHELMING SUCCESS IN KONTUM.

6. PHU YEN PROVINCE CHIEF HAS EXPRESSED HIS FIRM INTENTION TO OBSERVE THE NEW CEASE- FIRE GUIDELINES BUT STATES HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO STRIKE BACK IF ENEMY CHALLENGES HIM FOR CONTROL OF POPULATED AREAS. PHU BON PROVINCE CHIEF SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED

NO INSTRUCTIONS TO CHANGE HIS MISSION OR ACTIVITY AS A RESULT OF PARIS COMMUNIQUE, AND THEREFORE HE IS CONTINUING " RECON- TYPE OPERATIONS" AS BEFORE. IN BINH THUAN THE PROVINCE CHIEF VIEWS THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE AS " NOTHING SPECIAL", WHILE PROVINCE COUNCIL MEMBER NGUYEN HUU LY NOTES PARIS COMMUNIQUE MAKES EFFORT TO RESOLVE SOME AMBIGUITIES OF THE EARLIER AGREEMENT AND NOTES DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF THE AGREEMENTS ON VIETNAMESE, WITH THEIR PARTICULAR CULTURAL BACKGROUND, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON AMERICANS.

7. ICCS: ARRO REP PHU BON REPORTS ICCS MEMBERS DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT PARIS COMMUNIQUE TO COMMENT ON IT, BUT EXPECTS THEY WILL COMMENT IN A FEW DAYS. BINH THUAN REPORTS ICCS DOING BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH INVESTIGATION SCHEDULED MORNING JUNE 16 OF ROAD- MINING INCIDENT OF JUNE 6.

8. JMC: GVN ELEMENT OF REGION IV TPJMC INSPEC I PRG QUARTERS AND EQUIPMENT ( SUCH AS VEHICLES) AT PHAN THIET TEAM SITE ON JUNE 15. COL. DINH, CHIEF OF GVN ELEMENT, IS INLSAIGON TODAY FOR MEETING REPORTEDLY IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PRG S DEPLOYMENT.

TEARE  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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